

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, ID
SUBJECT: THE MPR SETTLES DOWN TO BUSINESS

REF: JAKARTA 3459

1. SUMMARY: THE PEOPLE'S CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY (MPR) HAS SPLIT UP INTO FOUR COMMITTEES TO WORK OUT AGREED POSITIONS ON THE ISSUES UNDER CONSIDERATION, AND WHILE MUCH TIME HAS BEEN SPENT IN RESTATING THE PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED POSITIONS OF THE VARIOUS FACTIONS, A BEGINNING HAS BEEN MADE IN FINDING COMPROMISE SOLUTIONS VIA THE CONSENSUS PROCESS. RULES FOR NOMINATING THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT AND A LAW FOR THEIR SUCCESSION SHOULD THEY BOTH BE INCAPACITATED HAVE BEEN WORKED OUT COMINING OPPOSING VIEWPOINTS. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN IF THIS PROCESS CAN BE CONTINUED WHEN THORNIER PROBLEMS ARE ENCOUNTERED LATER IN THE SESSION.

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ADAM MALIK HAS NOW BEEN PROCLAIMED THE CANDIDATE OF THE GOVERNMENT FACTIONS FOR VICE PRESIDENT. END SUMMARY.

2. THE MPR SETTLED DOWN TO SUBSTANTIVE BUSINESS MARCH 16, DIVIDING INTO FOUR COMMITTEES TO HAMMER OUT AGREED POSITIONS ON THE DRAFT RESOLUTIONS COVERING MAJOR ISSUES FOR PRESENTATION TO THE PLENARY SESSIONS NEXT WEEK. THE

COMMITTEES ARE A - DISCUSSING THE GUIDELINES OF STATE POLICY (GBHN), B - THE GUIDE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PACASILA (P4), C - DRAFT DECISIONS AND REGULATIONS OF THE MPR, AND D (WHICH DID NOT MEET UNTIL MARCH 17) - THE SPEECH OF THE PRESIDENT ACCOUNTING FOR HIS ADMINISTRATION SINCE 1973.

3. IN COMMITTEE A THE DEVELOPMENT UNITY PARTY (PPP) AND THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY (PDI) LISTED A SERIES OF POINTS IN THE GBHN DRAFT TO WHICH THEY OBJECT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THEIR PREVIOUSLY STATED POSITIONS. THEY BOTH URGED THE EXTENSION OF POLITICAL PARTIES TO THE VILLAGE LEVEL AND ELECTION COMMITTEES MADE UP OF MEMBERS OF THE CONTESTING PARTIES, AND THE PPP REAFFIRMED ITS OPPOSITION TO MENTION OF KEPERCAYAAN (JAVANESE MYSTICAL BELIEFS) IN THE GBHN. IN COMMITTEE B THE PPP CLARIFIED ITS POSITION ON P4, NOTING THAT IT DID NOT OBJECT TO HAVING SUCH A GUIDE TO PANCASILA BUT TO THE ISSUANCE OF IT BY THE MPR, GIVING IT THE FORCE OF LAW, AND, MORE DANGEROUS STILL, TURNING IT INTO A SOURCE OF MORE LAWS.

4. IN A SESSION LASTING PAST MIDNIGHT AND CONTINUING TODAY, COMMITTEE C REACHED AGREEMENT ON SIX ITEMS, TWO OF THEM OF SUBSTANTIVE IMPORTANCE AND REFLECTING A SPIRIT OF REAL COMPROMISE BETWEEN THE PPP AND PRO-GOVERNMENT FACTIONS. NOMINATIONS FOR PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT WILL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BE MADE BY EACH FACTION, BUT MUST LIST ALL MEMBERS IN SUPPORT, AND EACH FACTION MAY NOMINATE MORE THAN ONE CANDIDATE IF THEY WISH. THIS COMBINES FEATURES OF THE PROCEDURES PROPOSED BY THE GOVERNMENT DRAFT WITH THOSE SUGGESTED BY THE PPP. ANOTHER COMPROMISE RESOLVED THE DISAGREEMENT ON THE PRESIDENTIAL SUCCESSION LAW, RETAINING THE TRIUMVIRATE OF DEFENSE MINISTER, FOREIGN MINISTER AND INTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER TO GOVERN TEMPORARILY IN CASE BOTH PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT ARE INCAPACITATED, AS PROPOSED BY THE GOVERNMENT DRAFT, BUT ADDING THAT THIS GROUP EXECUTIVE WOULD NOT ACT AS HEAD OF STATE OR AS MANDATORY OF THE MPR BUT ONLY AS DAY-TO-DAY ADMINISTRATORS, MEETING PARTIALLY AIMS OF PPP, WHICH SOUGHT A RETURN OF POWER TO THE MPR. COMMITTEE C WILL CONSIDER TAP X, THE AUTHORIZATION OF SPECIAL POWERS TO THE PRESIDENT WHICH SERVES AS THE LEGAL BASIS OF KOPKAMTIB, IN THEIR NIGHT SESSION MARCH 17. THIS IS A VERY CONTROVERSIAL ISSUE, AND A GOLKAR SOURCE IN THE COMMITTEE BELIEVES VOTING IS POSSIBLE IF THE PPP CANNOT AGREE WITH THE OTHER FOUR FACTIONS.

5. EMBOFF ATTENDED THE MARCH 17 MORNING SESSION OF COMMITTEE C WHICH DEBATED THE PRESIDENTIAL SUCCESSION LAW.

THE ATMOSPHERE WAS RELAXED AND DRESS WAS INFORMAL. SPEECHES WERE BRIEF, AND DISCUSSIONS WERE EARNEST BUT GOODNATURED, WITH SEVERAL HUMOROUS REMARKS WHICH WERE WELL RECEIVED. AFTER TWO ROUNDS OF COMMENTS BY EACH FACTION FAILED TO SHOW AGREEMENT, A ONE-HOUR RECESS WAS CALLED FOR A PRIVATE MEETING BETWEEN THE CHAIRMAN AND FACTION LEADERS, WHICH RESULTED IN THE COMPROMISE MENTIONED ABOVE.

6. GOLKAR, ABRI, AND REGIONAL FACTIONS HAVE ANNOUNCED THAT THEY WILL SUPPORT ADAM MALIK AS THE CANDIDATE FOR VICE PRESIDENT, CONFIRMING WHAT HAS BEEN AN OPEN SECRET FOR THE LAST WEEK.

7. COMMENT: THE EXAMPLE SET BY THESE FIRST TWO COMPROMISES

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MITES BETWEEN PRO-GOVERNMENT FACTIONS AND THE PPP MAY NOT EXTEND TO THE MORE SENSITIVE ISSUES SUCH AS KEPERCAYAAN, AND VOTING SLIPS HAVE ALREADY BEEN PREPARED FOR USE IF NEEDED. IT DOES OFFER, HOWEVER, A RAY OF HOPE THAT MUCH MORE CAN BE DONE TO BRIDGE THE GAPS BETWEEN THE AVOWED POSITIONS OF THE TWO SIDES. MASTERS

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